1925 CBW Accords Dusted Off

WASHINGTON (AP) — House subcommittee hearings this month on U.S. policies for chemical and biological warfare may push the United States toward ratification of an old international agreement restricting these silent killing agents.

Announcing the hearings Saturday, Chairman Clement J. Zablocki, D-Wis., said his Foreign Affairs subcommittee will consider a pending resolution urging President Nixon to resubmit the Geneva Protocol of 1925 to the Senate for ratification. The resolution already has the backing of 108 House members.

The Protocol, which banned first-use of gas and bacteriological weapons, was not ratified by the Senate although the U.S. delegation to the Geneva conference in 1925 had introduced it and the head of the delegation had signed it on behalf of President Calvin Coolidge. It was withdrawn by the executive branch without prejudice shortly after World War II and, unless it is resubmitted, the Senate cannot consider it.

Rep. Richard D. McCarthy, D-N.Y., who last April urged Nixon to resubmit the Protocol, will be one of the initial witnesses on Nov. 18.

Chairman J. William Ful-

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bright, D-Ark., of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has said he would welcome a chance to consider the Protocol.

The pending House resolutions call also for a review of U.S. policies in the field of chemical and biological warfare and for a clear and unequivocal reaffirmation of a no-first-use policy on such warfare by this country.

"The use of chemical and biological agents in warfare is a subject which has trouble mankind for several generations," Zablocki said in announcing the sessions. "Previous testimony before the subcommittee has indicated that the world stands on the threshold of new developments in these weapons which could imperil the future of man on earth.

"This situation demands that we review the issues and problems involved in chemical and biological warfare policy in order to understand how these fearful weapons might most effectively be controled or eliminated through international treaties and agreements."